

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06

FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 DRC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /215 W

----- 130985

R 222021Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3517

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION UN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CA

SUBJECT: MORE PRESS REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

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REF: OTTAWA 1533

1. CANADIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT AND REACT TO INDIAN NUCLEAR BLAST. MAY 22 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIALIZES THAT "CANADA MUST REASSESS ITS AID TO INDIA." ACCORDING TO EDITORIAL, "FOR CANADA THIS NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORTH OF INDIAN ASSURANCES OF PEACEFUL INTENT COMES WITH A JOLT." IT IS NOT REALLY IMPORTANT, ACCORDING TO EDITORIAL, WHETHER THE PLUTONIUM USED IS A PRODUCT OF THE CANADIAN-BUILT POWER STATION IN RAJASTHAN. " THE SIMPLE, RELEVANT FACTS ARE THAT CANADA HAS BEEN FAR AND AWAY THE CHIEF CONTRIBUTOR TO INDIAN NUCLEAR RESOURCES AND THAT INDIA HAS USED ITS NUCLEAR RESOURCES TO PRODUCE WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM AND TEST IT WITH AN UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION. CANADA MADE IT POSSIBLE. WHETHER THIS CONTRIBUTION WAS DIRECT OR INDIRECT IS A MATTER OF MERE BOOKKEEPING... THE FUTURE CALLS FOR A STAND IN OTTAWA MORE SPECIFIC AND MORE UNHEDGED THAN THE HINT BY IVAN HEAD, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU, THAT 'WE'RE GOING TO BE TOUGH'...CUTTING OFF ALL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA SHOULD ONLY BE A FIRST STEP. LOGIC WOULD DICTATE THAT CANADA SHOULD GO BEYOND THAT AND DIVERT ELSEWHERE THE LION'S SHARE OF CANADIAN FOREIGN AID THAT NOW GOES TO INDIA... BUT IF SOME, LIMITED, CANADIAN AID IS CARRIED ON IT SHOULD BE DONE ONLY TO RELIEVE GENUINE EMERGENCIES. AND IT SHOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF CANADA'S RIGHT TO CARRY OUT THE SORT OF INSPECTION THAT INDIA HAS REJECTED IN THE PAST, IN FOREIGN AID AS IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY."

2. MAY 22 MONTREAL GAZETTE, MEANWHILE, REPORTS THAT "CABINET TO DISCUSS INDIA A-BLAST TODAY" WITH SUB-TITLE "CANADIAN DISPLEASURE VERY STRONG - PM." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE CANADIAN CABINET WILL SEEK A VERY STRONG WAY TO EXPRESS CANADA'S DISPLEASURE OVER THE INDIAN BLAST AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS "CERTAINLY CONTRARY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR AID TO THEM. I ALWAYS SPECIFIED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY EXPLOSIONS." ARTICLE THEN REPORTS ON PAKISTANI REACTIONS AND PAKISTANI WARNINGS TO THE CANADIANS THAT INDIA WOULD "FLOUT" ASSURANCES IT WOULD NOT USE THE CANADIAN REACTORS FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (IN INTERVIEW OF CBC TELEVISION, PAKISTANI HIGH COMMISSIONER UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID "CANADA WAS TAKEN FOR A RIDE" AND "CANADA SWALLOWED INDIAN ASSURANCES HOOK, LINE AND SINKER").

3. MAY 21 TORONTO STAR ALSO REPORTED ON FRONT PAGE OTTAWA'S REACTION TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR BLAST AND IN SECOND ARTICLE REPORTED THAT "OTTAWA WAS WARNED IN 1964 INDIA MIGHT BUILD A-BOMB." ACCORDING TO THE LATTER ARTICLE "NEWSPAPER REPORTS IN 1964 RAISED FEARS THAT LED TO QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ABOUT THE

\$20 MILLION GIFT."

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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